

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
January 12, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Roland, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, LaPine, Robinson, Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Pam Fehrman, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Victoria Hollerbach, Glenn Kost, Dot Long, Camron Parker, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Melissa Chamberlin, Carolyn & Julia Clark, Allison Corkin, Julia Eldrenkamp, Mary Haakenson, Randy & Laura Halter, Cameron Hayes, Kathleen Hodge, Sarah Hoisington, Howard Katz, Lynn Matthes, Dave McDermott, Michael McKinlay, Lisa & Madisen Mead, Paula Melby, Noelle Mitchell, Dick Morris, Anita Neil, Bill & Marianne Pace, Brian Parks, Marianne Pearson, Rebecca Peck, Mike Pery, Alex Popoff, Nancy Quint, Sharon Simas, Rick Tupper, Matt Wiegard, Katherine Wright, Sue Wrois

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Robinson to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the November 10, 2009 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented.

Chair Keeney corrected page 2, item 5 of the meeting minutes. The last sentence of Chair Communications should read, "...remaining levy funds that were originally donated by the campaign."

At the question, motion carried (7-0) to approve the meeting minutes with the change noted.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Howard Katz, 7 Lake Bellevue Drive, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Katz stressed the importance of a community center in the Bellevue Downtown corridor. He explained that the community center needs to focus on the older adult population in the downtown area. Mr. Katz suggested the site near the public library as an option. He added that this type of community center can be used for community members of all ages.

Dick Morris, 13430 SE 24th Street, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Sunset Community Association, Mr. Morris requested that the Skyridge Park trail system be completed. In addition, the association has some extra funds available and would like to know what else they can add to the park.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Grindeland participated in the following events:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden d'Lights
- Crossroads Community Center's Holiday Party
- City Council Study Session

Boardmember Stokes participated in the following events:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden d'Lights
- Parks Board/Human Services Commission Holiday Potluck Dinner at Crossroads Community Center

Boardmember LaPine participated in the Christmas Ship festivities at Meydenbauer Bay.

Boardmember Robinson assisted at the Crossroads Community Center holiday meal and participated in the following events:

- Bellevue Downtown Park ice skating
- Parks Board/Human Services Commission Holiday Potluck Dinner at Crossroads Community Center

Boardmember George visited her neighborhood parks and participated in the following events:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden d’Lights
- Parks Board/Human Services Commission Holiday Potluck Dinner at Crossroads Community Center

Vice-Chair Roland enjoyed the festivities at Bellevue Botanical Garden d’Lights.

Chair Keeney assisted staff in presenting the Airfield Park area plan to City Council and participated in the following events:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden d’Lights
- Parks Board/Human Services Commission Holiday Potluck Dinner at Crossroads Community Center

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Public Hearing—Parks & Open Space System Plan Update**

At 6:18 p.m., Chair Keeney called the Public Hearing to order.

Nancy Quint, 12123 SE 20th Pl., Bellevue, WA

Paula Melby, 12806 SE 20th Pl., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Melby reviewed the mission of SPLASH (Swimming Pools for Leisure Active Sports and Health), which is to build a world-class aquatics facility on the Eastside. SPLASH has reached many milestones, which Ms. Quint highlighted.

Ms. Melby explained that SPLASH proposes an indoor regional aquatics center of 7.5 acres with surface parking/four acres with parking structure (Vision D). SPLASH estimates a facility of this magnitude to cost \$50 million with surface parking or \$71.8 million with a parking structure.

SPLASH proposes the following community partnerships for the proposed facility:

- SPLASH
- City of Bellevue
- Neighboring Cities: Issaquah, Redmond, Sammamish, Kirkland, Mercer Island
- Bellevue School District
- YMCA
- Bellevue College
- King County

Ms. Quint and Ms. Melby encouraged Boardmembers to make the aquatic center a priority and include it in the short-range planning.

Anita Neil, 9302 SE Shoreland Drive, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Neil submitted a handout of her comments to the Board. She expressed her astonishment at the amount of tax dollars being spent on Meydenbauer planning efforts. She suggested that the City conduct conservative planning and would like the City to focus on the following issues:

- Increasing diversity.
- Partnership and regionalism.
- Technology.
- Renovating existing park facilities.

Kathleen Hodge, 10047 Main Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Hodge is a member of the Meydenbauer Neighbors Association and actively uses the Downtown Park. She requested that the City complete the loop trail around the Downtown Park. In addition, Ms. Hodge inquired why the Meydenbauer boat moorage has been vacant and suggested that the City rent out the moorage slips.

Michael McKinlay, 17207 NE 22nd Court, Redmond, WA

Mr. McKinlay is a registered Master Swimmer and expressed his frustrations with the lack of swimming facilities available. He supports SPLASH's proposal and would like a large aquatic facility built.

Dick Morris, 13430 SE 24th Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Morris expressed his frustration with the growing number of raccoons in Bellevue. He would like the City to find a way to deal with the animals.

Cameron Hayes, 1821 – 128th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Hayes expressed his support of SPLASH's proposal. He would like a facility that would allow him to swim year round.

Sharon Simas, 213 – 140th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Simas discussed the declining number of available swimming pools in the area and encouraged Boardmembers to work with other municipalities to bring forth a swimming facility. Ms. Simas supports SPLASH's proposal.

Chair Keeney asked members in the audience to raise their hands if they were in support of SPLASH's proposal. Numerous audience members raised their hands in support.

Howard Katz, 7 Lake Bellevue Drive, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Katz supports SPLASH's proposal and feels a swimming facility could satisfy not only the needs of the swimming community but also the needs of the older adult population.

Bill Pace, 454 – 172nd Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Pace operates the sales stand at the Mercer Slough Blueberry Farm. He reported that over 29,000 people u-picked blueberries at the farm. In addition, approximately 1,300 boxes of peaches and 320 boxes of pears were donated to the local food bank.

At 6:46 p.m., Chair Keeney closed the Public Hearing.

B. Parks & Open Space Plan Update

Mr. Parker explained that the purpose of the Parks & Open Space System Plan is to guide staff and the Board when making recommendations to the City Council on the acquisition, development and management of parks and open spaces citywide. The current plan was last updated in 2003. He noted that Public Hearing written comments were received until 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Parker explained that the Parks & Open Space Plan Update includes the following items:

- Community Profile
- Natural Resources Characteristics of Bellevue
- Existing Park System Inventory
- Public Participation Process
- Long-term Capital Recommendations
- Renovation, Maintenance, and Security
- Financing Strategies for Capital Projects

Mr. Parker discussed the public outreach conducted for the Parks & Open Space System Plan Update as well as the priorities from the survey. The following is a list of survey highlights that Mr. Parker summarized:

- Acquisition vs. Development: 53% asked for development of current properties.
- Age and Gender: demographic data show Bellevue has relatively higher proportions of young workforce and older adults than other cities in Washington.
- Bellevue has the eleventh highest median age of Washington's largest places.
- Bellevue is in the top third of Washington places for highest racial/ethnic diversity.
- Bellevue's shares of household types are typical of Washington places, except it has relatively few single parent households.
- Just over half of Bellevue's housing is single-family, yet Bellevue had the third highest percentage of multi-family structures with 20+ units.

Mr. Parker clarified that the 2003 Plan used a level of service based upon an acre per thousand residents standard calculation. This method is no longer favored because it does not account for use of facility or maintenance standards, and can misrepresent park access in certain situations. For further clarification, park agencies are using a calculation based upon the amenities within the park system. Mr. Parker added that the state is proposing three levels of service, which include:

- Individual active participation
- Public satisfaction
- Service area

Mr. Parker summarized some of the survey results, based upon the state's criteria. Underserved subareas identified from the survey, which were similar to the 2003 survey results, include:

- Newport Hills
- Factoria
- Eastgate (potential annexation area)
- Bel-Red
- Crossroads
- Bridle Trails

Mr. Kost highlighted some of the progress that has been made since 2003, which includes:

- Acquisitions
- Development
- Forest, Stream and Habitat Restoration

Mr. Parker discussed the proposed changes to the capital project recommendations in the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The categories discussed include:

- Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails
- Park Facilities
- Active Recreation Facilities
- Waterfront Access
- Parks & Open Space Serving Urban Densities
- Partnerships

Boardmember LaPine made the following suggestions:

- Consider adding a park to the underserved area adjacent to Clyde Hill.
- Indicate colored dots on the map so improvements are easily identified.
- Consider adding cricket to park development plans.
- Add Puget Sound Energy and other utility companies to the Partnerships list.

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Robinson to extend the meeting until 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Kost clarified that the park system map adopted in the Bel-Red Subarea Plan will be incorporated into the 2010 Parks & Open Space System Plan. Vice-Chair Roland suggested that the Bel-Red and Downtown Subareas be incorporated into the Park Facilities list.

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Robinson to extend the meeting until 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Due to time constraints, Boardmember elected to table further discussions about the Parks & Open Space Plan Update and weighing issues for the future. Discussions will continue at the next Board meeting with hopes of reaching a recommendation for City Council. To prepare for this discussion, Boardmembers would like to preview the proposed 2010 Parks & Open Space System Plan in its entirety. In addition, Boardmembers requested further direction from staff regarding the issues for the future, specifically:

- What are the service standards?
- In abandoning the current standard for measuring park system success, which is based on a minimum amount of park space per thousand residents, and creating new standards based on residents' satisfaction with the system, what is the minimum percentage of favorable responses that the City is striving for?
- What is the goal from obtaining Boardmember feedback on issues for the future?
- What are staff's recommendations for issues for the future?
- What is the specific action requested from the Board?

To help clarify questions raised about the issues for the future discussion, Boardmembers are encouraged to meet with Mr. Foran for an in-depth review.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

None.

10. **ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Boardmember committee/liaison reports**

Chair Keeney noted that the Meydenbauer project is significant. Boardmembers are encouraged to stay informed about the project.

Boardmember Robinson reported that there are several new members on the Bellevue Network on Aging Committee. The committee recently conducted their retreat.

Boardmember Grindeland encouraged Boardmembers to visit the Highland Skate Park. She is quite impressed by the facility.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Future agenda items**

Boardmember Robinson would like a future Board discussion about the SPLASH project and the feasibility of an aquatic center in Bellevue. In addition, she would like to discuss options for a community center located in the Downtown area.

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Robinson to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried (6-1).

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATION:**

- A. CIP Project Report
- B. Staff Communications:
 - Memo from Patrick Foran to City Council re Mercer Environmental Education Center – first year summary (also included: online information re AIA Honor Award for MSEEC)
- C. Email from Margaret Chalfant re tree removal thank you

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Experience the Arts flyer
- C. Article from City Arts/Eastside (January 2010 re dancing and skateboarding)
- D. February 9, room 1E-113—next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Anita Neil, 9302 SE Shoreland Drive, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Neil suggested that the survey results for the Parks & Open Space Plan are closed-ended. Ms. Neil believes the community center identified in the west part of Bellevue is proposed for the Meydenbauer Park. Ms. Neil feels this center is not favored by the community.

Brian Parks, 16011 SE 16th Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Parks requested a specific list of all items under consideration in the waterfront access section of the Parks & Open Space Plan.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.